



THE SOUTH DAKOTA *LEGIONETTE*

Serving Veterans, their Families and their Communities

A Word from the President

by Melanie Martens, Department President



"Have you Hugged a Veteran Today?"

I hope all of you had a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends.

I was fortunate to be able to attend some of the District Presidents' workshops, what an enjoyable experience it was to see our members sharing information with each other, working together on projects, (sharing lots of laughter) and learning more about our programs. Some workshops are still being held in a few of the districts, please plan to attend one in your area. You will have a fun time!!

Can you believe it is almost Christmas already? Time sure flies when you are having fun!! As I write this letter we are half way through the Christmas Gift Shops. What a rewarding time spent with our dear veterans, helping them select gifts for their loved ones. If you have not attended a gift shop, I encourage you to do so, the veterans love to spend time with us and it is very rewarding to see the smiles on their faces.

I hope that all of you have turned in your mid-year reports; I am excited to hear about all the wonderful things that all of you are doing for our veterans, children and youth and communities. Your information will be used to for reports that are presented during the Washington Conference in February. (Cont. page 4)



Veterans' Holiday Relief Drive Kicking Off On Veterans Day

By Autumn Simunek - Project Coordinator (2015 Miss South Dakota)

Many units kicked off the 5th annual Veterans' Holiday Relief Drive at 2016 Veterans Day programs.

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 71 of Hot Springs promoted the Veterans' Holiday Relief Drive and the distribution of the poppy with the help of local representatives, Shiann Moir, Jr. Miss Poppy and the Little Miss and Jr. Miss Hot Springs' titleholders at the Hot Springs' School Veterans Day program. Montana Harper, Sr. Miss Poppy represented the unit and relief drive at the Oelrichs' School Veterans Day Program, and they all joined together to serve at the American Legion Post 71 Family Veterans Day dinner.



At the American Legion Post 22 of Rapid City, Terry Curry, Unit 22 President, directed Little Miss and Jr. Miss Hot Springs titleholders of Rapid City to promote the Veterans' Holiday Relief Drive and serve at the Post 22 Veterans Day dinner.

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 8 of Pierre would like to thank Jay E. Mickelson and the T.F. Riggs High School for incorporating the Veterans' Holiday Relief Drive collection into the T.F. Riggs High School's honorary regional site Veterans Day program and celebration for the past three years.

All units are invite to participate in the Veterans' Holiday Relief Drive, now through January 30, 2017. Submit your unit's participations photos and caption to Autumn Simunek at Veteranshrd@gmail.com.

You may contact Autumn to receive your unit's area public service announcement and school's service-learning project invite or view the South Dakota Department of American Legion Auxiliary statewide PSA at sdlegionaux.org.

December Guide

Plan Christmas Programs at Unit meeting

Dec. 1: District Mid-Year Reports Due to Chairmen

Dec. 1: Send info contact to Cheryl Hovorka (see department mailings)

Dec. 7: Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

Dec. 17: Wreaths across America

Send 2017 Legionette subscriptions to headquarters by December 15 to receive the January edition!



Endorsement 2018-2019

The American Legion Auxiliary Martin Unit # 240 voted to endorse Regina Whipple as a candidate for the 2018-2019 **Northwest Division Vice-President** at their regular meeting held on Wednesday, November 9th, 2016. Janet E. Speidel, Unit 240 President (*Details will published next spring*)

Veterans Day in School

The students at the Groton school did a great job! Jan Seibel said that the wall wasn't long enough for all of the puzzle pieces so they made two hearts chained together with the rest of the pieces. They used over 500 pieces.

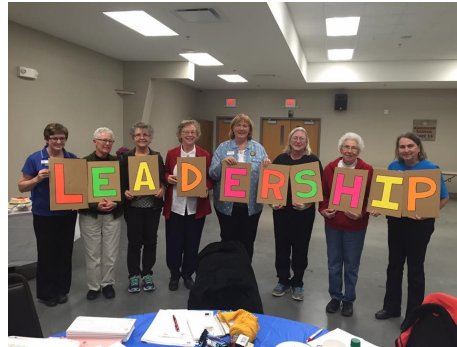


Mission Training 2016



South Dakota officers, chairmen, district presidents, members and a junior attended the Mission Training in Minneapolis in November.

Fall District Workshops



District 6 Pres. Linda Holmes planned an informative workshop! They even had the State Commander in attendance. Lots of new ideas and information were shared. The treats were awesome!



District Three Pres. Mary Jo Stier and District Four Pres. Jeannine Jilek did a great job of planning this together. What a fun craft idea making cards for our veterans. Lots of good information in the Tri-Trivia class. The Americanism, Leadership and Membership chairmen presented the workshop sessions.

In Memoriam

Unit 3 Chamberlain – Elizabeth Zerman, Oct. 16; **Unit 15 Sioux Falls** – Mildred De Groot, Oct. 16; Barbara White, Oct. 16; **Unit 17 Watertown** – Evelyn Fiehelkorn, Aug. 14; Lila Jorgenson, Sept. 16; Lois r. Johnson, Nov. 16; **Unit 18 Mitchell** – Catena Piti, Nov. 16; **Unit 26 Stickney** – Barbara Lien, Oct. 15; Margaret Overweg, Feb. 15; Betty Thompson, Dec. 2015; **Unit 29 Woonsocket** – Margarite Kilcoin, Nov. 16; **Unit 40 Webster** – Clarice Brostad, Aug. 16; Margaret Gabler, July 16; Janice Koppe, Oct. 16; **Unit 48 Rosholt** – Marylys Voss, Mar. 16; **Unit 50 Sisseton** – Alice Weis, Nov. 16; **Unit 52 Armour** – Matilda Palmer, Oct. 15; **Unit 62 Humboldt** – Mollie Stensaas, Nov. 16; **Unit 65 Dell Rapids** – Norma Smith, Oct. 16; Lilian Wilson, Nov. 16; **Unit 71 Hot Springs** – Emma Shaw, Oct. 16; **Unit 81 Toronto** – Phyllis Svennes, Oct. 16; **Unit 84 Hitchcock** – Dorothy Olsen, Nov. 16; **Unit 88 White** – Alvera Olson, Oct. 16; Unit 118 Hartford – Lorna Ellens, Oct. 16; **Unit 131 Valley-Springs** – Mary Gerdes, Jan. 16; Beverly Thompson, June 16; **Unit 150 Avon** – Alice Marek, Oct. 16; **Unit 152 Menno** – Esther Luikens, Aug. 16; **Unit 164 Spearfish** – Lorraine Kaiser, Oct. 16; Betty Johnson, Apr. 16; **Unit 169 Winner** – Virginia Sneath, Oct. 16; **Unit 186 Eureka** – Maggie Wolff, Aug. 16; **Unit 187 Fairfax** – Irene Donovan, Jan 15; **Unit 210 Mt Vernon** – Elaine Dempsey, Oct. 16; **Unit 240 Martin** – Elsie Johnson, Oct. 16; **Unit 262 Claremont** – Betty Beck, July 16; **Unit 263 Hetland** – Norma Melstad, Nov. 16; **Unit 289 Mansfield** – LaVaun Palmer, June 16; **Unit 292 Tulare** – Janice Murphy, Oct 16; **Unit 303 Hermosa** – Georgia Gerken, Nov. 15





Hosted by the
South Dakota American Legion Auxiliary

in partnership with

Autumn Simunek ~ Miss South Dakota 2015

Contribute "Buddy Baskets or Buddy Bags"

Buddy Basket Home-Warming Welcome Recipe:

Assemble a Laundry Basket/Waste Basket filled with: Paper Towels, Laundry Detergent, Household Cleansers, Rubber Gloves, Cleaning Sponges, Dust Pan w/Hand Brush, Light Bulbs, Flashlight, Batteries, Alarm Clock, Shower Curtain w/Rings, Bath Towel Set, Bathroom Tissue, Dishes, Eating Utensils, Dish Soap; Dish Towel Set
- Frosted with clear wrap, bow, and greeting tag

Buddy Bag Thank A Hero Recipe:

Assemble a Bag filled with: Personal Hygiene Products, Hand Towel Set, Shower Shoes or Slippers, Socks, Hat Gloves Scarf Set; Shopping or Salon Gift Card
- Sealed with a note or card of appreciation

Substitute, Homemade, or Single Household and Essential Items

Welcome: Bedding, Warm Apparel, Small Appliances, Thermos, Bottled Water, Sun Screen, Lip Balm, Bus Pass; Pre-Paid Phone Card

Monetary Donations:

Checks payable & mailed to:
SD American Legion Auxiliary, Attn: Vets Relief Drive
129 North Main Ave. • Hartford, SD 57033

SD DROP-OFF LOCATIONS

November 11, 2016 - January 30, 2017

- Aberdeen - Area Chamber of Commerce • 516 S Main St.
- Sioux Falls - American Legion Post 15 • 1701 West Legion Dr.
- Vermillion - The Broadcaster/Plain Talk 201 W Cherry St.
- Yankton - Area Chamber of Commerce • 803 E 4th St.
- Huron - Chamber & Visitors Bureau • 1725 Dakota Ave. S
- Mitchell - American Legion Post 18 • 107 N Main St.
- Hot Springs - American Legion Post 71 • 1045 Jennings Ave.
- Rapid City - American Legion Post 22 • 818 E Saint Patrick St.
- Sturgis - Area Chamber of Commerce • 2040 Junction Ave.
- Deadwood - Lawrence County Admin. Bldg. Lobby • 90 Sherman St.
- Spearfish - Area Chamber of Commerce • 106 W Kansas St.
- Black Hills Pioneer • 315 Seaton Circle



Thank you for contributing to
South Dakota's Veteran Outreach Programs!

Serving Veterans, their Families and their Communities
Additional Information: Veterans HRD@gmail.com; 605.890.3093



"Have you Hugged a Veteran Today?" Cont.
from page 1.

The highlight of December will be the Christmas Party Tour which begins December 3rd at the Hot Springs State Veterans Home. We have hosted these parties for many years, they bring joy and happiness into the lives of the hospitalized veterans. Everyone is invited to attend these parties, the veterans will indeed enjoy a hug from you!

December 7th is Pearl Harbor Day, I hope that your unit will plan something in remembrance of this day.

December 17th at 10 am is Wreaths Across America at the National Cemeteries, we remember our fallen U. S. Veterans, honor those who serve and teach our children the value of freedom by conducting these wreath laying ceremonies. This is a very beautiful tribute, hope to hear that many of you are able to attend a ceremony near you.

Please mark your calendar for Mid-Winter, February 10-12th. It should be a great time for all us. The four scheduled workshops will have great information for you to take back and share with your units and members. Virginia Nelsen, our Northwest Division National Vice President will be in attendance. We will have an Auxiliary banquet on Saturday, the theme of the banquet will be Honoring our Past.....Celebrating our Future. More details will be available in the January Legionette.

Congratulations to everyone on the great job you are doing with membership!!! Also, thanks for all you are doing to support Goal 3 of the Strategic Plan, which is Leadership/Mentoring. I am very proud of the activities that everyone is doing in their communities and with their members to promote this. Go Team South Dakota!

Rod and I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas as you celebrate this joyous season with your friends and family. Please keep those less fortunate in your thoughts and prayers.

Until next month.....
Melanie Martens, Department President



Members to Remember



"Jan Wales aka "jack of all trades" has been our Treasurer and Membership Chairman for several years. Jan the ... painter, cleaner, planter, baker, griller, concession stand worker, decorator, coupon sorter, and the list goes on. Jan is always there when you need an extra hand."

Jan Wales is American Legion Auxiliary Moberg Unit #4 "jack of all trades" and definitely a master at them all. Jan Saylor, Pres. ALA Moberg Unit #4

Meet **Bev Carr** from Unit 164 of Spearfish. Bev is in her eighties and has been a member and officer in our unit for over 60 years. Bev now resides at the David M. Dorsett Healthcare Center and spends her days making lap robes tops to donate to the Ft. Meade VA, and new residents in her facility. This year she made 115 quilt tops. She is a dedicated Auxiliary member who attends our monthly meetings.



Holiday Prayer for our Soldiers
 By Shelley Dragoo
 Dept. Chaplain

Dear Lord,

We give thanks to you for our brave men and women in uniform. We pray that you would comfort them during this Christmas season. Lift them up above their circumstances and situations. Refresh them and strengthen them as they seek to courageously serve their country. Provide them with special blessings to help them deal with the emotional pain of being far away from loved ones this Christmas. Surround their loved ones with the ability to deal with the empty chair at their holiday table. May each soldier *and each loved one* feel your loving arms around them bringing comfort during this Christmas season. Amen

Thought for the Day

Christmas is the spirit of giving without a thought of getting. It is happiness because we see joy in people. It is forgetting self and finding time for others. It is discarding the meaningless and stressing the true values. (Thomas S. Monson)



Across South Dakota

Teresa Huntimer, Dist. 7 Pres. and Sioux Falls Christmas Gift Shop Representative has recently started a new project. She is recycling plastic shopping bags by crocheting them into sleeping mats for homeless.

At the American Legion Post 22 of Rapid City, Terry Curry, Unit 22 President, directed Little Miss and Jr. Miss Hot Springs titleholders of Rapid City to promote the Veterans' Holiday Relief Drive and serve at the Post 22 Veterans Day dinner.

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Visit the SD ALA Website at www.sdlegionaux.org

Subscribe to the Legionette to stay up-to-date with District and Department information. Send your news and pictures to the editor at Micheline.Nelson@live.com or mail them. For reporting an error on names or addresses, change of addresses and deceased members, email or call headquarters first. Thank you! **New subscription year starts with JANUARY.**

Christmas Parties



Ft. Meade VA - December 5th at 1:00 pm

Hot Springs State Veterans Home - December 3rd at 1:00 pm

Hot Springs VA - December 4th at 1:00 pm

Human Services Center - December 7th at 5:00 pm

Sioux Falls VA - December 8th at 2:00 pm

Please come and share Christmas spirit with our veterans, they love to see you!



Membership Standings			
	Goal	Novem-	%
District 1	1022	521	.51
District 2	858	420	.49
District 3	1578	1009	.64
District 4	1501	1096	.73
District 5	2366	1680	.71
District 6	1960	1352	.69
District 7	1503	887	.59
District 8	1320	818	.62
Totals	12,108	7,783	.62

THE SOUTH DAKOTA **LEGIONETTE**
 Official Publication of the American Legion Auxiliary Department of South Dakota
 Published monthly except July and August at Spearfish, SD from September 2016, forward. Printed by Western Mailer, Rapid City, SD 57701-2917. Subscription rate: \$5.00 per year. Dates from January through December. All copy must be in the hands of the Editor by the 18th of each month preceding current issues. We do not pay for the postage cost of address changes.



Spearfish Unit 164 Junior Elise Derrek helped decorate the VFW hall for the Veterans Day dinner. Pictured with her is Cathy Inghram, Unit secretary/treasurer.

Veterans Day Program at Ft. Meade coordinated by Ginger Childers, Spearfish Unit VA&R chairman and director of the Spearfish Senior Center Line Dancers.

SD ALA- Unit 8 - Pierre decorated a tree at the Capitol this morning. President Patsy Madsen made the beautiful ornaments and the others decorated.

Picture Courtesy of KORN News Radio 1490 - What a great honor for the members of Brownie troop 57005! Molly Mae Potter, Ms. Veteran America, personally thanked the girls and their leaders for their service to Veterans.

Family members, friends and community supporters gathered at the Huron Arena to bid farewell to about 165 Soldiers from the South Dakota Army National Guard's 153rd Engineer Battalion as the units departs for a nine-month deployment to Kuwait. The mission of the Huron- and Parkston-based FSC is to provide logistics and maintenance support. This will be the second mobilization for the 153rd which deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2004-2005.





Pics Collage

Top: Linda Holmes received the Auxiliary Member of the Year Award at the 2016 Mitchell Area Veterans Day luncheon.

Members of the Spearfish Unit 164 preparing the gifts for Veterans Day programs at the Ft. Meade VA and the David M. Dorsett Health Care Center.

Veterans Day program at Northwestern School in Mellette. Cudos to Rich Osborn, principal for his leadership in providing this important commemoration for our veterans, students and community. Great job by high school band, middle school choir, Brentford Junior American Legion Auxiliary, and readers Bailey Heim and Jace Haven. The guest speaker was National Guard Sergeant First Class Mike Wiley.

**DONATE NOW
THROUGHOUT
THE WINTER
MONTHS!**

COATS FOR VETS

**HELP KEEP OUR
VETS WARM THIS
WINTER!**



IS YOUR CLOSET FILLED WITH OLD JACKETS, COATS, AND WINTER GEAR THAT ISN'T BEING USED???

THEN DONATE THEM TO THE NEEDY MILITARY VETERANS IN YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY!

ALL DONTATIONS WILL BE GIVEN TO THE RAPID CITY VA HOSPITAL

HOSTED BY: THE BOX ELDER AMERICAN LEGION POST 315, AUXILIARY, AND THE LEGION RIDERS

DROP OFF LOCATIONS:

- AMERICAN LEGION POST 315
- OUTSIDE THE 37TH AMU READY ROOM

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

- TONY ADAMS (850) 819-3962
- R.M. COZZA (678) 943-3850
- ERICKA ADAMS (520) 236-3002

GIVE US A CALL WE CAN MEET YOU!